The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news essential and editorial interpretation of matters of interest to members of Labor Unions, Legislative, and Judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1915, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1842 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1946 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 36, NO. 31

SAVE FOOD
Help Relieve
Famine Abroad

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The fourth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the Mutual Broadcasting System network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

A Congressman Looks At Congress

By REP. ANDREW J. BIEMILLER
of Wisconsin

As a member of Congress, I cannot take pride in its record on domestic issues during the present new drawing to a close.

When the war ended, our Nation had a wonderful opportunity to strengthen its peace time structure and to chart a course which would promote the prosperity and security of all the American people.

President Truman rose to the occasion and presented a far-reaching program to Congress to carry out these objectives. But Congress struck out in the clutch.

Let me say that I do not believe any Government can cure all the ills of mankind by passing a law, or a set of laws.

But we did have the opportunity during this session to mitigate some of the evils which beset our economy by simple and direct action. No such action was taken by Congress.

For instance, many of the leaders of our country and organized labor felt it was important to prevent future depressions resulting from mass unemployment. A sound and workable Full Employment Bill was drafted, but Congress killed it and then dressed up its ghost in the same clothes.

Four million American families still have to struggle along on substandard wages of 40 cents an hour, because the House Rules Committee buried amendments to raise the minimum wage to 65 cents.

Millions of returning veterans and war workers can't find a decent home, but obstructionists on the House Banking and Currency Committee pigeonholed the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill which would have stimulated the construction of 15 million new homes in the next ten years.

I could go on with this indictment at length, citing Congressional failures on price control and health insurance legislation, among many others. But my purpose is not merely to condemn. The big question is what can be done about this situation.

The remedy lies with you, the people of the United States. You hold the answer in your vote next November. If you want a better life for yourself, if you would like to see a stronger America in the future, you should vote for defeat of reactionaries from both parties who joined to obstruct the President's program.

To those who are disappointed by the record of this Congress, I say "do not become disheartened. This is a temporary situation. No one can stop the clock of progress. If we keep on fighting with the courage of our convictions for greater human welfare in our land, we are bound to win in the end.

The Mountain Brings Forth a Mouse

By NELSON J. RUIKSHANK
Social Insurance Director for the AFL

The House Ways and Means Committee decided this week to freeze social security again—for the fourth time in a row.

Behind this action lies an interesting story—a story which should arouse the indignation of the American people.

A year and a half ago, when Congress last voted to clamp the lid down on social security, the American Federation of Labor protested so vigorously that the House Ways and Means Committee agreed to undertake a thorough study of the entire Social Security situation. The House of Representatives provided a $50,000 appropriation for the study and the committee proceeded to hire a staff of experts to conduct it.

These experts spent their report last January—742 pages of fine print and charts. It is a careful and competent piece of work and lends invaluable support to the position long taken by the American Federation of Labor, that the Social Security system is in desperate need of extensive overhauling.

Abundant evidence was presented in the report to prove our contentions that:

First, the Social Security tax must be increased from its present rate of one per cent to place the program on a sound financial—or to use an insurance term—actuarial basis.

Second, present benefits are inadequate and even lower than relief payments in the aged in most States.

Third, coverage of Old Age and Survivors Insurance should be extended to the other half of American wage earners—manufacturers—such as agricultural workers, domestic employes and those who work for non-profit and charitable institutions.

Fourth, State unemployment compensation laws now in effect are woefully inadequate.

Following the submission of this report, the House Ways and Means Committee held a long series of public hearings at which witnesses from all walks of life gave an impressive account of the need for improved Social Security laws.

After all this—the $50,000 investigation and four months of hearings—the Committee now has approved a bill which could have been thrown together in a couple of hours and which ignores the findings of its own experts and outside witnesses.

The new bill proposes to freeze the tax rate at one per cent again; to bring maritime workers under State unemployment laws—but without the safeguards requested by the AFL; to extend Social Security coverage only to the families of veterans who die during the next three years, and to raise by $5 per case the monthly grant-in-aid from the Federal Government to match State funds for needy aged, the blind and dependent children.

Some of these things are good, but so very far from good enough. Truly, "the mountain labored and brought forth a mouse."

End of the Line

By BORIS SHISHKIN
AFL Economist

Suppose you opened your morning paper and read a story about a highway bandit who hijacked a motorist, took his money, stripped him of his clothes, set him down on the curb, waving him stark-naked on the road. But before the holdup man drove off, according to the story, he handed his terrified and shivering victim a bill labeled on "How to Undress". You wouldn't believe such a story, would you? Yet the story is very much like the one you have been reading in the papers about the removal of OPA controls.

The gentlemen who were out for easy profit at your expense did a thorough job. But the first of their victims, all poor and worn out, is you. The price of your food, your rent and your new shirt sailed away up. And now the same gentlemen have bedeviled and coerced Congress into writing a new OPA law. But this new law is not going to put the lid back on prices. It tells how OPA should take price controls off. Never mind that controls are already off, it says: take them off twice if you have to make assurance doubly sure.

The old OPA law said it was a crime for the merchant to charge more than the maximum price set by the government. The new OPA law is quite different. The new law says it is a crime for the government to set a maximum price on, say, a cotton shirt, unless the price is high enough to cover the cost of everything that went into the manufacturer's and the merchant's Havana cigars, plus a sure profit.

Under the new law, there will be no price ceilings on most basic foods until August 20. After that a three-man decontrol board would have to decide what to do with prices of such products. If it sets no ceilings for them, there will be no ceilings. The board may set new price ceilings on other products and set them quite high. The law gives detailed instructions how not to set the price ceilings too low but gives little guidance on when price ceilings should be set at all. In fact, if we can learn anything from the start, the law provides that price ceilings on all other commodities must be lifted in five months—at the end of this year—unless OPA makes a specific finding that one or another is necessary to check soaring costs.

This half-revived OPA will restore vast control for one year. But whether its weakened administrators will be able to bring it back to where they left off at the end of June—and to hold them there more than a few months, while other prices now allowed to go up—is a big question. And don't forget one other thing Congress has done: it has killed the Office of Temporary Controls without saying a word about its wage control. That is at the heart of Congressional schizophrenia.

You see, the new controls will have to accept most of the sharp price rises that have taken place in recent weeks. They will legalize the black market prices. Other prices will be set at so high a level as to give a sound basis which will shoot them right up. But wages will remain frozen to the same inflationary rung at which they were held by the end of last June. Workers who have helped to hold the line will pay the final inflationary bill at the end of the line—holding the bag. That's what workers will have to fight; and the A. F. of L. will help them fight it.

Senate Quickly Confirms OPA De-control Board

Washington, D. C.—In a hastily given voice vote, and without debate, the Senate approved President Truman's nominees to a three-member de-control board which will have vast power in designating what commodities henceforth will remain under OPA control.

The board is composed of a banker, a manufacturer and a bureaucrat. It embraces no labor or consumer representation. The members are Roy L. Thompson, president of the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans; Daniel W. Bell, Washington banker and former Acting Director of the Budget and Under-Secretary of the Treasury, and George H. Mead of Akron, Ohio, chairman of the board of the Mead Corporation, pulp and paper manufacturers, and a member of the advisory board of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Shortly after the Senate acted, Thompson, chairman of the new group, expressed confidence the board will be able to do its job quickly.

"The quicker we can do the possibility of getting things out from under price controls, the sooner we can arrive at the situation we're all looking for," he said. "If we can get production going at its proper rate, competitive forces can bring prices into proper relationships and remove the necessity of Government controls."

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics revealed the average prices the farmer received for livestock is the highest in 27 years of record. The list includes grain, meat animals, cotton, poultry, eggs and dairy products.

In the month ended July 15, average farm prices made the greatest monthly jump in history.

The bureau report showed a general increase in the month of 28 points in the parity level, to 244 per cent of the 1909-14 average upon which priority is based.

These figures, added to the July 15 crop report predicting the greatest corn and wheat crop in history, would indicate farm income this year will reach a level never before experienced in the United States.

Prices of shirts, shorts and pajamas were raised 11 per cent by OPA.

Men's and boys' dress shirts and boys' sport shirts costing less than $1.95 were upped 21 per cent. This means that a shirt selling previously at $1.80 will increase to $2.15. Officials were frank to admit further increases soon may be ordered and that the prospect for "reasonable" prices for cotton fabrics is "awfully bad," since they now are at record highs and still on the climb.

Officials indicated also that price ceilings on flour, coffee and canned vegetables probably will be increased in the next few days to compensate for the loss of subsidies.

Nourse Is Named Head Of Employment Council

Washington, D. C.—Expressing confidence that economic hills and valleys could be avoided by sharp alertness to changing conditions, President Truman announced Edwin G. Nourse to head a three-man Economic Advisory Council provided by the Employment Act. Nourse is vice president of the Brookings Institution, a research organization, and has headed its institute of economics since it was established in 1922. He is 58.

Earlier, the President had appointed as the other members, John D. Clark of the University of Nebraska, and Leon H. Keyserling, general counsel of the National Housing Agency.

Under the Employment Act enacted February 20, the Economic Advisory Council is to recommend long-range policies for Government encouragement of full employment and purchasing power. Mr. Truman has delayed setting up the council because of difficulty in finding the right men for the three $15,000-a-year jobs.

Mr. Clark, a native of Colorado with a varied background as a lawyer and in the economic field, has been professor of economics and dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska since 1941.

Mr. Keyserling, a native of Charleston, S. C., has long experience in Government service. He was deputy administrator and general counsel of the United States Housing Authority from 1937 through 1942, when he became general counsel of the National Housing Agency.

In announcing the appointment of Nourse, the President said:

"Our country is capable of maintaining an economy free from the evils of both inflation and deflation. The Council will be in a position to present to the Nation a clearer and more comprehensive analysis than we have ever had before of the economic state of the Nation and all factors which tend to retard prosperity."

Membership on the Council pays $15,000 a year, the same remuneration paid to Cabinet members.

19,000 In Brooklyn Navy Yard To Be Cut From Payroll In Year

New York City.—The most drastic layoff of civilian personnel initiated in this area by the Navy was revealed today by Fourth Naval District Admiral F. E. Haeberle, commandant of the U. S. Navy Yard at Brooklyn, that 19,000 workers would be dropped from the payroll between now and next June 30.

Admiral Haeberle told The Shipworker, organ of the yard's workers, that official orders would compel him to discharge 17,000 employes between now and September 30 and an additional 2,000 before June 30, 1947, thus reducing the yard's personnel from 28,000 to 9,000 by the latter date.

Admiral Haeberle said that the provisions of his order required that the first 5,000 personnel to be laid off by the first quarter of the current fiscal year, ending October 31, would be separated during the second quarter, commencing October 1; to "about" 9,500 in the third quarter, starting March 1, and to "about" 9,000 during the fourth quarter.

"It is obvious that the reduction in the force required will be at an average of 29,000 for the first quarter will be drastic," Admiral Haeberle's statement declared, "and must be made at the earliest possible date consistent with giving everyone possible thirty calendar days' notice in a working status. It will, therefore, be necessary to issue notices of reduction in force in addition to those issued during the remainder of July and August until about 15,000 are issued.

"From then on, with those issued in June, will bring the total employment figure of 28,000 down to about 12,000 by October 1, 1946."

At the peak of its wartime career the yard boasted a personnel of 62,000, including Navy and Marine personnel.

Garment Union Gets New Raise

New York City—Another pay increase, the fourth in two years, retroactive to the 10 percent granted last February, was negotiated by the United Garment Workers of America (AFL) at a national wage scale committee meeting here in July.

The increase will be effective August 5 and applies to all employers who are members of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of America. This brings wages in this industry 40 percent above the January 1941, scale.

Another important feature of the new contract is that it contains six paid holidays a year—New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, all employes will receive a week's vacation with pay and two weeks paid vacations after five years.

QUIT FORCE IN BENCH

Washington, D. C.—Reps. John W. Murphy of Pennsylvania and Luther A. Johnson of Texas resigned from the House to become Federal Judges. Under pending legislation they will be eligible for a $5,000 increase in their annual salaries. Federal District Court jurists now are paid $10,000 a year.

ILO Group Drafts Safety Standards

San Francisco.—A safety code for factories with supervision on prevention of accidents as industrial rehabilitation gets underway in nations scarred by war, was completed here by technical experts of eight countries. It will be printed for a tripartite conference of governmental, employer delegates meeting in 1947 under auspices of the International Labor Office.

A statement issued following the session said in part:

"The code covers conditions found in various factories throughout the world and deals with many special industries, such as explosives, magnesium, manufacture, colloidal; handling of strong acids and other corrosive and harmful substances.

"It is the only code ever dealt with regard to mechanical processes but is inspirational in providing devices, clothing and other means which can be taken to prevent injuries during operations.

"Primarily, our object was to set up standards whereby employes would not be unduly exposed to harmful conditions but where it was apparent, due to fully proven methods that there might be some exposure our task was to suggest some protection against such exposure."

AFL Pleads For World Peace In Warning To Paris Parley

House Group Kills Bill For Long-Term Housing

Washington, D. C.—Brushing aside fervent pleas by President Truman, AFL President William Green and veterans' organizations, Congress, intent on getting home for the approaching campaign, killed the Wagner-Taft-Ellender long-range national housing bill.

The action was taken by the House Banking Committee, which dropped the measure by voice vote.

Rep. Brent Spence of Kentucky, chairman of the committee, shanghaied his plans for a record vote after several Democratic members of the committee indicated they would vote with Republicans against a favorable report at this session. They demanded further hearings.

Spence said he was fearful an unfavorable vote at this time would injure the bill's chances next January. He said he had confidence the bill can be passed if and when President Truman summons Congress into special session. The President said he would do this if the limited price control law proved inadequate to halt inflation.

Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt, echoing Spence's hope that something may yet be done on a long-range housing program, said:

"If a special session of Congress is called, we hope and expect that the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill will be high on the calendar," said Wyatt. "If there is no special session we will ask for this legislation as soon as Congress is convened in regular session.

The bill outlines a 10-year housing program to provide 1,500,000 dwelling units a year, including 125,000 public housing units.

Shortly before the committee acted, Mr. Green issued a statement in which he said:

"The House leadership is yet to discharge its full responsibility for the enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill before adjournment. After overwhelming approval by the Senate, the Bill was received by the House for three months. It was sidetracked to give priority to the British loan. The loan should never have been given priority to the Philippine loan. Labor had given its fullest support to both loans as essential to world reconstruction. But labor wants to know whether the House leadership intends to give equal priority to reconstruction as to preserving at least equal consideration with foreign postwar reconstruction. The Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill is basic to the rebuilding of postwar America. It is indispensable to the immediate emergency housing program for veterans. The House must pass it now in the form approved by the Senate.

"It is said that many members of the House have no time to act on the Bill because they are anxious to go home to seek reelection. Labor is entitled to know whether the Bill is destined to be acted on the Housing Bill before they leave Washington. The failure of the House of Representatives to act favorably on the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill before adjournment will bring bitter disappointment to millions of families of veterans and others left condemned to the privation of a chronic housing shortage. It will generate industrial unrest and lead to dire political consequences."

Green Discloses AFL Will Intensify Political Drive In Next Campaign

Cleveland, O.—After delivering a blistering indictment against the record of the 79th Congress, AFL President William Green warned that the American Federation of Labor will intensify its political efforts this Fall to defeat labor's enemies in Congress and elect its friends.

In an address before the Ohio State Federation of Labor Convention here, Mr. Green declared that the legislative branches to cooperate in the campaign by "getting voters to register and go to the polls."

"One thing is certain," he said. "The AFL will not depart from its non-partisan political policy. The record made by Congress demonstrates the necessity of continuing to send friends in both the Democratic and Republican parties and defeat both, as well. We cannot judge candidates by their political labels. It is time long overdue for labor to become so organized that must be our standard for endorsement or rejection.

"We have a responsibility for the kind of Congress which passes the laws by our country does not rest upon the members of Congress themselves but with the people of this country who elect them. It is therefore, up to us to make democracy work by electing honest and liberal representatives.

"For our own welfare and the welfare of the nation, the American Federation of Labor calls upon every one of its seven million members and their families to go to the polls in the primary election Day and vote for candidates who will support the Full Employment bill. Instead, Congress approved a bill which falls dismally short of its purpose.

"This is only part of the objectionable record. Besides its many errors of omission, Congress has committed serious errors of commission.

"During this session, both Houses of Congress approved the Case Bill which can only be described as the most vicious labor legislation ever adopted by Congress. Fortunately, the President vetoed it and thus prevented its becoming law.

"The President requested the establishment of a Permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee. That request went unheeded. The President recommended the enactment of effective Full Employment bill. Instead, Congress approved a bill which falls dismally short of its purpose.

"This is only part of the objectionable record. Besides its many errors of omission, Congress has committed serious errors of commission.

"During this session, both Houses of Congress approved the Case Bill which can only be described as the most vicious labor legislation ever adopted by Congress. Fortunately, the President vetoed it and thus prevented its becoming law.

"The President requested the establishment of a Permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee. That request went unheeded. The President recommended the enactment of effective Full Employment bill. Instead, Congress approved a bill which falls dismally short of its purpose.

"Here is the opportunity of the American people to assert themselves. The time is here to call representatives to account. It is their duty to examine the voting records of the candidates and to exercise good judgment."

LESS WOMEN WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—The proportion of women workers in production since the end of the war has dropped to a point slightly higher than that before the war, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced.

They have gained in durable goods industries and have retained part of their wartime gains, which increased for 18 per cent of the present employment instead of the prewar 9 per cent in that field. A high percent of 24.3 per cent was reached by women workers in durable goods in September, 1944.

Green Says Showdown With Russia Is Vital To World Accord

Columbus, O.—In a fervent appeal for world peace, AFL President William Green called upon United Nations leaders at the Paris Conference to forge "clear-cut and honest agreements" to abolish future wars.

Speaking before the convention of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association, Mr. Green emphasized that a showdown with Soviet Russia is an essential prerequisite to a peaceful world. He insisted that other nations have no designs on Russia and are willing to "live and let live." He charged that aggressive Soviet policies "have aroused widespread suspicion that her talk of self-defense is merely a cloak for a brazen imperialistic design."

Since agreements have been made and a voice at the peace tables, Mr. Green said he thought it important to voice the AFL's views at this time on international issues. He added:

"First of all, we insist that peace without justice is a farce and a sham which is bound to lead to war. We regard slavery as an inhuman institution and we do not believe that even our former enemies should be placed in permanent bondage. Human freedom must be the foundation stone for the peace settlements and if any doubt exists as to disposition of territory, the people of the country affected should be accorded the right to decide for themselves at free elections under what flag they shall live.

"I have stated these principles in general terms. Now let us get more specific. We must face the fact that a very real conflict exists in the world today between the democratic nations on the one hand and Soviet Russia on the other. I am confident that this conflict can be resolved by peaceful means. It must be. There is a spark of common sense left in the human race. But I do not believe that we can reach a showdown with Russia and a permanent way out of our present difficulties by a policy of appeasement.

"To us it appears incontrovertible that Soviet Russia has employed obstructive tactics in the councils of the United Nations. We do not like the way she has seized territory and property in Europe and Asia by main force without consulting other nations. We resent her denial of basic freedoms to the people in other lands over which she holds sway.

"On the other hand, Russia insists that the actions we complain of are necessary to her self-defense. Apparently Soviet leaders are suffering from the delusion that other nations are determined to forge a ring around the Soviet Union and destroy it.

"Premier Stalin may see fit to feed such fears to the Russian people, but they have no basis in truth or in fact. No nation of comparable strength, certainly not the United States, has designs on Russia. We do not want any part of anything she possesses. All we ask is that we may have her form of government. We are willing to live and let live.

"Unless aggressive Soviet policies have aroused the widespread suspicion that her talk of self-defense is merely a cloak for a brazen imperialistic design.

"World peace cannot be based on suspicion. If the nations of the world are to live permanently in friendship and cooperation they must learn to understand and trust each other. Under the circumstances, no time must be lost in obtaining a showdown with Russia. If she sincerely wants peace, the democratic nations of the world will be overjoyed and will accord her the most liberal treatment. But if Russia is merely trying to build up to another war, it is much better for the world to know about it in time to prevent it by courageous action now.

"We hope and pray that the statesmen who are gathering in Paris will heed our advice and our warning. We urge them from the bottom of our hearts to do their utmost to arrive at clear-cut and honest agreements which will lead to lasting peace. We pledge them our full support toward that end. Once peace is established we are on write into a splendid energy and new inspiration to create a better and more prosperous world for all its inhabitants."

AFL ALUMINUM UNION VICTORIOUS IN ELECTION

East St. Louis, Ill.—Members of the Aluminum Workers' Union (AFL) defeated the Steel Workers (CIO) in a National Labor Relations Board election by the decisive vote of 692 to 160, Regional Director Edward E. Prescott of the Aluminum Workers' Council received a congratulatory message from AFL President William Green on the splendid showing made in the balloting.

LABOR LOSING ITS GAINS

Harrisburg, Pa.—Recent gains won by labor have been wiped out by inflation, Fred Hollowbush, secretary of CPA, the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor advised its members in a special bulletin issued here. He further warned that labor unrest will mount steadily if prices continue to climb.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news concerns and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor answering to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit in the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

LABOR DAY SUPPLEMENT

SAVE FOOD—Help Relieve Famine Abroad

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

A LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By GEORGE MEANY

Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

Of all the days in the year, labor's own holiday is undoubtedly the most appropriate one for workers to do some good hard thinking about the most precious possession they have—freedom. On Labor Day, a full year after the defeat of our nation's enemies, it is natural that sports, recreation and relaxation should have their place on the program, but it is important—very important—that Labor Day should be used also to ponder deeply the meaning and worth of American freedom.

GEORGE MEANY

Before the war altogether too many of our citizens took this blessing for granted. Now again there are signs of recurring indifference and complacency. This attitude is unjustified and very dangerous. For always, in times of peace as well as in times of war, there are only forces at work attempting to whittle away and ultimately to wipe out the most fundamental and the most important of human rights—the right to live our lives as we see fit and not as some omnipotent dictator commands.

If the people of our country did not live under a system of freedom, there could not be such an organization as the American Federation of Labor—a democratic organization through which, in a period of 60 years, the wage-earners of America have secured the highest standard of living in the history of the world.

Organized labor has had many arduous struggles in the past and it expects to have to wage many tough battles in the years that are to come. The worker and his union have always had to fight for economic advancement. Nothing worthwhile has come without a good deal of exertion on the part of the labor movement.

But the important point to remember always is that we have been free to organize, free to appeal to public opinion, free to use our economic strength, and that it has only been because of our freedom to act that the wage-earners of America are today so far ahead of the world's economic procession. Without this freedom we would still be in the mire. With freedom we shall be able to wage programs for further advancement and to take appropriate action to translate these programs into reality.

What the workers of America have accomplished under the free enterprise system of our country is the envy of the world, yet we often read derogatory utterances concerning our economic system that emanate from the proponents of totalitarianism. Free enterprise proved its efficacy during the recent war when, without enslaving labor, without giving away our cherished rights and liberties, American industry, in cooperation with American labor, outgeneraled and outfought the Axis. The war showed that the American system was not only the best from the viewpoint of wage-earners in peacetime but likewise the best system for the defense of our national sovereignty during the most terrible war of all time.

On this Labor Day of 1946, the American Federation of Labor stands for the same ideals and principles that have been our guide and inspiration during all the years of its existence. All that we have accomplished, all that we hope to accomplish to bring more and more happiness into the lives of our families and communities—all this depends entirely upon the maintenance and extension of human liberty.

Let us rededicate ourselves this Labor Day to be alert always to the great value of this possession and to fight with all our strength against those who belittle it and wish to destroy it. Freedom is the foundation. Without it no sound human structure is possible.

For Labor Day Editions:

Sen. Wagner Calls on Labor to Fight For Progressive Objectives It Seeks

By ROBERT F. WAGNER

U. S. Senator from New York

The basic freedoms of democracy have come to take on a new meaning in a modern industrial society. They now include the right to protection against economic insecurities as well as the right to security against physical violence. They include finally the new economic bill of rights as well as the old political bill of rights.

Much progress has been made, particularly since the last great depression, in securing and advancing economic rights. But we are a long way from perfection. We need to make further efforts.

These efforts should be shared in by all the people. But the main leadership should come from the Congress of the United States, because it passes the laws which give good wages for every willing worker; to do a 100 percent job on social security rather than a 50 percent job; to build houses that the average family can afford; to see that our national defense and our standards of living year by year without interruption; and to maintain the prosperity of our system of individual enterprise.

These objectives require, under our democracy, a strong and progressive and humane government. The people of this country have, on numerous occasions in the past, demonstrated that they want and need that kind of government. If they continue to demonstrate this, their interests will be preserved and advanced. If they do not demonstrate this, reaction will take over.

The temporary continuation of price control, to protect the average American family from being victimized by inflation.

It has not acted to prevent discrimination in employment.

It has been at times irresponsive to the needs of the people, and responsive to the clamor of real estate interests and other selfish groups.

My message to working people on Labor Day, therefore, is that they continue and increase their intelligent interest in public affairs and make it clear that they will not tolerate the neglect of the progressive objectives which they legitimately share with the country as a whole.

We have in this country an abundance of all the things needed to provide job opportunities on good wages for every willing worker; to do a 100 percent job on social security rather than a 50 percent job; to build houses that the average family can afford; to see that our national defense and our standards of living year by year without interruption; and to maintain the prosperity of our system of individual enterprise.

These objectives require, under our democracy, a strong and progressive and humane government. The people of this country have, on numerous occasions in the past, demonstrated that they want and need that kind of government. If they continue to demonstrate this, their interests will be preserved and advanced. If they do not demonstrate this, reaction will take over.

Clague Appointed Head Of U. S. Labor Statistics

Washington, D. C.—Appointment of Ewan Clague, veteran Government economist, as director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department, was announced by President Truman. The post had been vacant since the resignation of Dr. Isador Lubin.

The bureau, whose work includes the compiling of official statistics dealing with price increases and decreases and the cost of living, has been under heavy fire since the war began as a result of charges that it slanted the accuracy of its studies of living costs. Critics declared these figures, in many cases, were actually much higher than reported by the bureau's investigators.

Clague, an economist and statistician, had been director of the Bureau of Employment Security of the State of Washington since 1941. A native of Prescott, Wash., he was graduated from the University of Washington in 1917, and served two years in the Army during the first World War. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1930.

The new director first joined the Bureau of Labor Statistics 20 years ago to study the changing output per man hour in American industry. He then traced the effect of factory closing on employes of Connecticut rubber plants when they were shut down in 1929. He collaborated on a book entitled "After the Shutdown."

Clague was statistician of the Unemployment Relief Bureau in Philadelphia during the early 1930s and served as a director of social research for the Pennsylvania Board of Social Work. He was a member of the advisory committee which examined the adequacy of the statistical methods used by the BLS the Commerce Department and other Federal agencies in 1935.

It's Your Holiday - Enjoy It!

Typical of America's teeming masses of workmen who will enjoy the Labor Day holiday are these workers, shown at a change of shift at the Fontana Dam, part of the TVA development, about 20 miles from Bryson City, N. C., on the Little Tennessee River.

THE HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day—the one day set aside in tribute to America's toiling millions—is as American as the working men and women it honors. It is a labor-born and bred, brainchild of a union carpenter and nationalized after 23 States had proclaimed the first Monday of September a legal labor holiday.

Peter J. McGuire, a native of New York City who joined the ranks of America's toilers while still a child, when he began work in a dry goods store, was the father of the observance. Apprenticed to the carpenters trade while still quite young, at 20 he was a full-fledged union man.

It was McGuire, then in his early thirties, who sent out a call early in May of 1882 to the delegates of the scattered groups of organized carpenters of that day. Standing before the newly organized Central Labor Union of New York City on May 8, he proposed that one day of the year be set aside as a general holiday for the working masses.

McGuire suggested that the holiday be known as Labor Day and that it be set for the first Monday of September, which would put it approximately midway between two national holidays—the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Other delegates to the meeting enthusiastically embraced the idea. A committee was named and soon preparations were underway for the initial celebration of Labor Day.

The fifth of September that year dawned bright and clear. It was not too warm and there was a gentle breeze. And on that day, banners flying, bands playing, American labor marched, with a song in its heart, up Broadway to Union Square up Fifth Avenue to Forty-second Street. The parade was rich in color, but, as the papers observed, it was one of the most orderly the city had seen.

Of the picnic which followed, one newspaper account said:

"When the paraders had scattered through the picnic grounds, when the basket lunch had come to attract the festival had reached them and when the ceremonies of the day were fairly inaugurated, Elm Park presented a rare spectacle.

"The whole area was thickly crowded; there was not a bit of room to spare on the dancing platform and all of 5000 people sat in groups and stood in compact multitudes.

"It had been arranged that each union would have a certain portion of the grounds marked out for itself, and the facilities for effective fraternizing than otherwise could have been observed.

"As it was, fellow-workers and their families sat together, joked together, and became friendly; for though the common cause had established a sense of closer brotherhood."

From mid-afternoon to nightfall there was speechmaking. One of the best-received speakers, of course, was McGuire himself.

With evening came a still larger crowd, for only a fraction of the city's employers had decreed a holiday, and the Central Labor Union had advised all whose employers desired them to work to do so. Firemen and dancing both had important parts in the afternoon and evening festivities.

"On the dancing platform," said the New York Herald, "the fun was fast and furious. It was crowded with a revolving, capering, merry multitude."

The second Labor Day was celebrated in 1883. Said the New York World:

"The monster demonstration and parade of the trade and labor organizations of yesterday was an immense success. The parade was participated in by the trades unions of this city, Brooklyn, Jersey City and other adjacent cities."

Two years and one month after the first Labor Day parade and festival, the fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was in session at Schloesser's Hall in Chicago.

Twenty-six delegates attended that convention. They represented nineteen organizations — international unions, local bodies, central labor unions. The report of the financial officers showed a balance in the treasury of $188.14. Though few in number, the delegates were blessed with far-seeing vision.

The delegates from the Chicago Trades and Labor Assembly, A. C. Cameron, proposed and the convention adopted the following:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage-workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

During the next few years organized labor devoted its attention to securing state legislation making Labor Day a legal holiday. As early as 1887, Oregon enacted the first State law, but this measure designated the first Saturday in June as Labor Day. This was changed to the first Monday in September in 1893.

The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives in May of 1894 presented a favorable report on a bill making Labor Day a legal public holiday.

By June 26 of that year Congressional action on the bill had been completed and two days later the measure was signed by President Grover Cleveland. The pen used by the President was turned over to Representative Amos J. Cummings of New York City, who sponsored the bill in the House. Cummings then sent the pen to President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

Thus, a dozen years after McGuire first advanced the idea of a special holiday "honoring labor before the

Central Labor Union of New York City, the proposal had the approval of the American people, expressed through their elected representatives at Washington.

President Gompers 45 years ago issued an editorial for The American Federationist in which he discussed the deep significance of Labor Day. Though the Spanish-American War period is rather remote, the remarks then made by Gompers on the subject of Labor Day have lost none of their point.

"No day in the calendar is a greater fixture, one which is more truly regarded as a real holiday, or one which is so surely destined to endure for all time, than the first Monday in September of each recurring year, Labor Day," he declared.

"Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year of any country. All other holidays are, in a more or less degree, connected with conflicts and battles, of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed or power, of glories achieved by one nation over another.

"Labor Day, on the other hand, marks a new epoch in the annals of human history. It is at once a manifestation of the growth of the principles of the masses against tyranny and injustice from time immemorial; an inspiration to fight the battle of our day for the men, women and children of our time and gives hope and encouragement for the attainment of the aspirations for the future of the human family.

"It is devoted to no man, living or dead; to no sect, sex, race or nation. It is founded upon the highest principles of humanity, is as broad in its scope as the universe.

"It was not given to but conquered by labor, and established as a holiday before any legislature, state or national, enacted it into law.

"The marching of men in the Labor Day demonstrations signalize no martial glory, brutal domination, contempt or warlike prowess. They are in their essence, the manifestations of the growing intelligence of the workmen who recognize that peace is an essential to successful industry and real progress in all it is to lungs-and-limb animals; that justice to the toilers has too long been denied; that in the light of the civilization at the close of the Nineteenth Century, wrongs too gross, widespread and well known to require mention here, still abound; that if man is to be free in the time to come, eternal vigilance must be exercised, organization of the workers proclaimed, maintained and extended; that education of labor as well as of the masses be furthered and nurtured, and agitation of labor's wrongs endured and rights denied undertaken, with all the zest and energy begotten of devotion to a cause which is at once holy, noble, pure, lofty, just, wise and humane."

RICHARDSON SEES RAISE DUE FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

Cleveland—Salaries of fire fighters must be increased to keep pace with increased living costs and to attract and retain in the service the men who have the technical skill and leadership necessary to maintain efficient departments, George E. Richardson, secretary-treasurer of the International Fire Fighters (AFL), told the International Association of Fire Chiefs in session here.

At the same time Mr. Richardson declared that the 56 hours are coming quickly "when the chiefs, or even some fire fighters, must them." Job opportunities already have to be created for returning veterans, Mr. Richardson said, already have established the 48-hour week, he said.

LABOR DAY, 1946

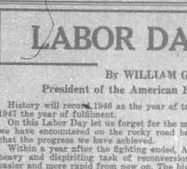
By WILLIAM GREEN

President of the American Federation of Labor

History will record 1946 as the year of transition. It is up to us to make 1947 the year of fulfillment.

On this Labor Day let us forget for the moment the detours and difficulties we have encountered on the rocky road back to peace and prosperity and chat the progress we have achieved.

Within a year after the fighting ended, America has almost completed the heavy and dispiriting task of reconversion. The way forward should be easier and more rapid from now on. The big reward ahead is full production and full employment, the two essentials to a sound and prosperous economy.



WILLIAM GREEN

The troubles of the rest of the world are still too much with us, but we cannot escape them nor dodge our responsibility for contributing to their solution.

This year the American people gave generously in time of scarcity to save the people of Europe and Asia from starvation. Hundreds of thousands of American boys are still stationed abroad to keep the peace so dearly won. It is part of our job to help the weaker nations to get back on their feet, and we will not count the price too high if by these efforts we serve the cause of lasting world peace.

Above all, we recognize the truth that war is the greatest enemy of mankind and that without enduring peace the strivings of labor to raise the standard of life and work of the nation's wage earners can be no avail.

During the early part of this year, the members of the American Federation of Labor won substantial increases in wage rates to compensate them for the loss of overtime pay which they enjoyed during the war production drive. However, the soaring cost of living has, to a large extent, cancelled these gains unless prices can be pushed back to their normal levels. This can only be accomplished by greatly expanded production to end existing shortages. It is, therefore, to the interest of all American workers to boost production by every means possible.

Fortunately, the mass unemployment which loomed threateningly after V-J Day failed to materialize. Despite the return of millions of members of the armed forces to civilian life, jobs are plentiful. As production hits high gear, the gateways to more and better employment opportunities will be flung wide open. Certainly, the danger of a postwar depression will be avoided.

On the legislative front, labor has chalked up progress during the year. We had hoped for broadening of our social security system and for the inauguration of national health insurance, but Congress failed us. We strove for the enactment of a long-range housing program which would provide the construction of millions of badly needed new homes during the next ten years, but Congress fell down on the job. On the other hand, labor was forced to defend itself against a series of hostile moves by Congress which would have undermined the freedom of American workers and handcuffed the trade union movement. Fortunately, the worst of these measures were defeated or vetoed.

In the year ahead, organized labor must concentrate greater effort to win public opinion to its side. The trade union movement enjoys the confidence of the Nation's workers to a degree never before attained. This is evidenced by increasing memberships and the results of collective bargaining elections. The membership of the American Federation of Labor now stands at an all-time high of more than seven million.

We believe that when the public generally understands the high goals sought by labor and the valuable services rendered to the Nation by the trade union movement, it will reject the flood of anti-labor propaganda which reactionary forces have poured out against us. Our enemies are making a last-ditch fight to halt the clock of progress and revive Fascism in this country by spreading false and slanderous reports. They are banked by money, but the truth will overcome them. And the American people, endowed with good common sense, will recognize and understand the truth before long.

NLRB Sets August 20 for Opening Of Elections At 3 Atomic Plants

Washington, D. C.—Collective bargaining elections at the three atomic bomb processing plants at Oak Ridge, Tenn., have been set for August 20, 21 and 22 by the National Labor Relations Board following simplified rules of the American Federation of Labor. They will be held under the supervision of Charles M. Brooks, a special NLRB representative.

The elections will be held at Monsanto Chemical Company, Tennessee Eastman Corporation, and Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corp. The employes of the three companies will be polled separately.

The NLRB said that the balloting agreed to by the parties was the result of a series of negotiations which required the utmost close cooperation of the Army, the companies, the unions, and the board's agent in order to afford the highest degree of security to the war effort and at the same time prevent the release of classified information."

Petitions seeking NLRB determination of employe representatives at the Oak Ridge plants were filed by the AFL in 1944. Because of the secrecy of operations, the board said the cases should not be processed at that time.

This year the Secretary of War requested the board to determine whether elections could be conducted without endangering security, for which reason the board has not processed the cases through the regular channels of its regional office. Instead, the NLRB appointed Daniel J. Leary, a member of its legal staff then and Mr. Brooks as the special representative to investigate and report.

After an inquiry of several weeks, joint conferences among the parties were held. Some issues remained in dispute so the parties agreed that the board should decide them without a hearing, the decisions to be made by the decisions.

Paul M. Herzog, NLRB chairman, visited Oak Ridge, then conferred with union and company representatives at Washington. He flew to Army to a conference, at which the details were worked out.

Railroad Unions Win Long Fight

Washington, D. C.—Legislation long advocated by the railroad brotherhoods, amending the Railroad Retirement Act, the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act and liberalizing the present laws, was signed by President Truman.

The new act increases unemployment compensation benefits from a maximum of $20 a week for 26 weeks to $25 a week for 26 weeks.

In addition to increasing the railroad annuities, the new law establishes survivors' pensions for widows and children of the deceased workers. These benefits are 25 per cent above those provided by the Social Security Act. The new law increases and liberalizes disability annuities.

The act makes a larger fund available for benefit payments by increasing retirement rates from the present 7½ per cent to 12¼ per cent in 1949. Under terms of the new law the concept of unemployment is expanded to include individual unemployment due to sickness and accident.

BAKERS' CONVENTION SET

Chicago—The Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union will open their convention here September 16.

Green Urges Aid In Nebraska Fight

Washington, D. C.—An urgent appeal for whole-hearted assistance in the Nebraska State Federation of Labor was issued by AFL President William Green to all officers of AFL national and international unions to block a movement there for an anti-union labor amendment.

Enemies of organized labor, Mr. Green pointed out, have obtained sufficient signatures to a petition for the anti-union shop amendment—50,000 more than are required. Only by vigorous campaign, well supported, can this move be defeated, he said. The issue will be submitted to Nebraska voters in the November 11 election. Mr. Green made clear that the AFL is contributing as much as it can, but that more funds will be required to defeat the anti-labor amendment.

EMPLOYER MUST PAY

Washington, D. C.—Where all employer requires an employe to obtain a medical certificate from the company doctor before resuming work after an absence of one or more days, the employer must pay for time spent by the worker during regular working hours getting the certificate, the Wage-Hour Division has ruled.

COMPENSATION HANDBOOK

Washington, D. C.—A revised edition of more people and is more and stood in compact multitudes.

It had been arranged that each union would have a certain portion of the grounds marked out for itself, and the facilities for effective fraternizing than otherwise could have been observed.

"As it was, fellow-workers and their families sat together, joked together, and became friendly; for though the common cause had established a sense of closer brotherhood."

PICKETING CONSTITUTIONAL

Denver.—The Colorado law banning picketing by strikers was declared unconstitutional by the Colorado District Court which ruled that restrictions on peaceful picketing for any reason violate the free speech clauses of the constitution.

ORNBURN TO BROADCAST

Washington, D. C.—I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, will broadcast over a national hookup Saturday, August 10, at 2:30 P. M. (EST)

FOR AFL ON AIR IN KENTUCKY

Frankfort, Ky.—A 15-minute weekly radio program at 9 p. m. each Saturday night will be sponsored by the Kentucky State Federation of Labor to give information of value to AFL members.